Linking East and West
In the 1800’s, in order to travel from the East Coast of the U.S. to the West Coast, people only had two choices...
First Choice – travel by stagecoach

What are some dangers pioneers may run into?
Second Choice

- Settlers would have to take a boat and travel all the way around South America in order to reach the west coast of the United States.

- What are some dangers they may face?
The Pony Express Changes Communication!

- The Pony Express was a service in 1860 that used riders on horses to deliver mail from MO to CA in 10 days
  - 150 stops along the way
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1R-GeEd95c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1R-GeEd95c)
PONY EXPRESS
St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI to CALIFORNIA
in 10 days or less.

WANTED

YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS
not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily.
Orphans preferred.
Wages $25 per week.

APPLY, PONY EXPRESS STABLES
St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI
Samuel Morse Puts the Pony Express Out of Business...

Inventor of the telegraph
The Telegraph

• A device that sent messages through wires using electricity
Samuel Morse

- Uses the Morse Code to transmit messages through the telegraph


- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q19_CIDycWg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q19_CIDycWg)
The Transcontinental Railroad
The Transcontinental Railroad

A railroad that crosses a continent
The Transcontinental Railroad

• The Union Pacific began building track west from Omaha, Nebraska
• The Central Pacific began building east from Sacramento, California
  – Since the government gave each company land and money, they raced against each other
Union Pacific

• Had an advantage because they were building on the broad, flat plains of Nebraska
Union Pacific

• They had a problem finding workers, but after the Civil War, thousands of Irish immigrants moved to work on the railroads
• Workers also included former Confederate soldiers and African Americans
Railroad

• Native Americans were greatly affected by the railroad being built on their land
  – The workers were scaring away the buffalo or simply shooting it for “fun”
Central Pacific

- The Central Pacific had difficulty building the railroad in the rugged Sierra Nevada mountain range and found Chinese immigrants to help them.
Central Pacific

- Chinese immigrants made up 80% of the Central Pacific Workforce
- They had the difficult job of blasting tunnels through the solid rock of the mountains
The workers endured scorching deserts, blinding snowstorms, and blasted through mountains.
Central Pacific

- The Central Pacific finished building through the mountains in 1867 and sped up as they neared the east.
The Golden Spike

- The tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific met at Promontory Point, Utah
- A golden railroad spike was hammered into the spot
Gold-plated Golden Spike that was donated by the governor of Arizona Territory. Spike is now owned by the Museum of the City of New York.
Transcontinental Railroad

- Now the trip could be made in a week for less than $100
This is America, Charlie Brown

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4qYUnm4ZYY